

Docket No. 27735-9

PATENT

**CERTIFICATE OF MAILING**

Whereby certify that this paper is being deposited with the United States Postal Service with sufficient postage as first class mail in an envelope addressed to: Mail Stop Issue Fee; Commissioner for Patents; P.O. Box 1450; Alexandria, VA 22313-1450 on November 12, 2004.

Brandy Rogers

**IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT & TRADEMARK OFFICE**

Applicant: David Michael Edwards et al. : Paper No.:

Serial No.: 10/663,273 : Group Art Unit: 3612

Filing Date: September 16, 2003 : Examiner: Coletta, Lori L.

For: **Fastening System With Extension Element**

**COMMENTS ON STATEMENT OF REASONS FOR ALLOWANCE**

Mail Stop Issue Fee  
Commissioner for Patents  
P.O. Box 1450  
Alexandria, VA 22313-1450

Dear Sir:

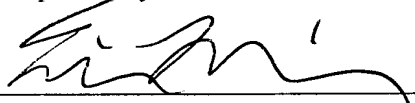
In the Notice of Allowability accompanying the Notice of Allowance dated November 1, 2004, a Statement of Reasons for Allowance was provided. The Examiner's Statement indicates that "the recitations of the specific features of the fastening system in claim 1 including especially the construction of the compression reinforcement device mounted with respect to the securement structure and including a lower creep rate than a creep rate of the securement structure is not taught nor is fairly suggested by the prior art of record." Applicants agree that the prior art fails to teach or make obvious these claimed features. However, Applicants wish to clarify that the art also fails to teach or make obvious the claimed fastening system of independent claim 1 and those claims dependent therefrom.

The Examiner's Statement also indicates that "the recitations of the specific features of the vehicle bed element for mounting at a fastening location of a vehicle with a fastener in claim 17 including especially the construction of the annular collar including a lower creep rate than a creep rate of the securement structure is not taught nor is fairly suggested by the

prior art of record." Applicants agree that the prior art fails to teach or make obvious these claimed features which are recited in independent claim 16, from which claim 17 depends. Therefore, Applicants wish to clarify that the art also fails to teach or make obvious the claimed vehicle bed element of independent claim 16 and those claims dependent therefrom.

These Comments are submitted in order to clarify the Examiner's Statement of Reasons for Allowance. Entry is therefore believed to be in order and is respectfully requested. Please charge any fee required in connection with this paper to Deposit Account No. 04-1133.

Respectfully submitted,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Eric M. Robbins', is written over a horizontal line.

Eric M. Robbins  
Registration No. 52,170  
Dinsmore & Shohl LLP  
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**TRANSMITTAL OF REPLACEMENT SHEETS**

Mail Stop Issue Fee  
Commissioner for Patents  
P.O. Box 1450  
Alexandria, VA 22313-1450

Dear Sir:

Applicants herewith submit Replacement Sheets for Figures 1 and 2 in which reference character "38" has been deleted in accordance with the Examiner's Amendment dated November 1, 2004. Applicants also herewith submit a Replacement Sheet for Figure 4 in which reference character "P" and the dotted rectangular have been deleted in accordance with this same Examiner's Amendment. Entry is therefore believed to be in order and is respectfully requested. Please charge any fee required in connection with this paper to Deposit Account No. 04-1133.

Respectfully submitted,

Eric M. Robbins

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